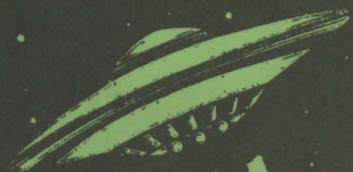
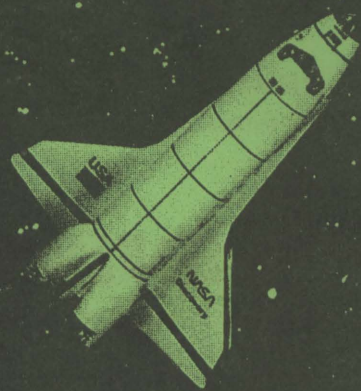


THE
AUSTRALIAN

U.F.O.

BULLETIN



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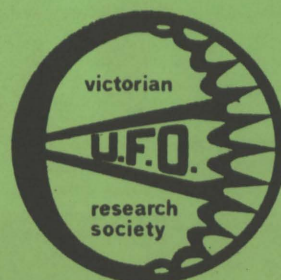
TONY COOK

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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial - we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.



Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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EDITORIAL

December 1993

By Paul Norman © 1993

The Frederick Valentich encounter was televised in the United States, coast to coast by the Unsolved Mysteries Program, on 29th September. Cosgrove/Meurer Productions forwarded comments made by viewers who 'phoned after the program. Unsolved Mysteries is not generally televised in Australia so some samples of comments are given in order to acquaint members with the reaction of viewers from all over North America.

1. Caller says he spoke with Dr. Allen Hynek, the Chief Consultant on behalf of the Military for Project Blue Book. Dr. Hynek told caller that there are EXTRA TERRESTRIALS who are both man and Robot. He made this statement in 1967 to the caller. The Dr. told the caller that if he would say anything to authorities or the news, the Dr. would deny everything. Caller said that there is a cover-up about UFO's and he had witnessed a sighting upstate New York in the late 1960's.

Editor's Note - It is common knowledge among some individuals of the UFO Research Community, that Dr. Hynek followed some of his comments with this same sort of statement.

2. Caller has a theory! He wants to know if there was a radar beam involved.
VUFORS answer: We don't know. The aircraft was behind hills from radar station.
3. Caller thinks that if there was a hovering craft, it would have probably had a magnetic field that might have knocked out the radio.
VUFORS answer: The pilot reported his engine was coughing or missing. Probably from the electro-magnetic effect that occurs when UFO's are near ignition systems of cars and aircraft. In some cases engines have stalled.
4. Caller is part of the Sea Floor Survey Co. in Richmond, Virginia. This Company finds downed aircraft and feels that they could help find this aircraft. Caller feels that a UFO did not take the aircraft, but that the aircraft is on the bottom of the ocean.
VUFORS comment: After the mystery sound interrupted radio transmission between pilot and Melbourne Flight Service, we do not know if he went up, down or disintegrated.
5. Caller said that they didn't address the fact that the man might have killed himself, and did anyone know the mental condition of this man?
VUFORS answer: Mental and physical condition of pilot was excellent. Witness who observed both the aircraft and object above, confirms the pilot was describing a real event.
6. Caller likes UFO cases, and just wanted to suggest we do a show on the UFO crash in New Mexico
VUFORS suggested several outstanding cases for future programs.

EDITORIAL - continued

7. Caller lives in Miami and with a group of friends, sighted a UFO in Fall of 1991.
VUFORS forwarded a request through a Florida contact for more details.
8. Caller said that man who took pictures, had a bad technical problem on his camera or film.
VUFORS REPLY: Kodak in Melbourne said the image was not a flaw. When photos were first published, a Melbourne Physicist said, without analysis, that the object was a cloud or puff of smoke. The image appears in the sixth picture nine (9) degrees of arc into shot with camera set on 20 seconds Automatic. The puff of smoke or cloud would have had to be going 200 miles per hour - too fast for a cloud or puff of smoke, especially on a calm day.
9. Caller says that no altitudes of the aeroplane were given.
VUFORS answer: All transmissions of pilot were not televised. He was at 4,500 feet.
10. Caller wondered if some space debris could have been responsible for the disappearance of the plane.
VUFORS Reply: Description of object by both pilot in the air and witnesses on ground confirms the descriptions were not space debris.
11. Caller had a suggestion about radio transmission, and the clicking noises at the end of transmission should be analysed. These noises could be a communication of some kind from the UFO.
VUFORS: A scientist in the U.S. is doing research on sounds from UFO's.
12. Caller wants to suggest searching the water near where the plane went down.
VUFORS: This has been done.
13. Caller says that the prior two photos in the sequence have a spot that wasn't mentioned.
VUFORS comment: Unsolved Mysteries did not televise all comments associated with the photos.
14. National Guard Helicopter - in Cleveland Ohio Area in the 70's saw the same type green lights and things aired on the show. It was written up in the newspapers at that time.
VUFORS comment: This was the famous encounter of Larry Coyne and his four man crew, who reported an identical type experience. His helicopter was pulled from 1700 feet to 3700 feet before breaking loose from the unknown object. Larry Coyne and crew got back to tell their story, but Frederick Valentich did not. That incident may be re-enacted by Unsolved Mysteries.
15. Caller says that the end of show where still photos were shown, the photos preceding the very last shot were shown too fast and not commented on as it appeared there was action going on and he would like to see them again.
VUFORS comment: Computer ANALYSIS CRITIQUE from the only computer analysis of the original follows:-

"CIVILIAN AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION" - GROUND
SAUCER WATCH - 13238 N. 7th DRIVE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85029, USA.

AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAPHIC CASE (Crayfish Bay 1978)

Computer Analysis Critique

Six color negatives were given to GSW for evaluation utilizing computer photographic analysis methods. All photographs reveal both foreground and background data points, in a sunset lighting mode. In frame five an anomalous image appears to be "surfacing" from the water.

In frame six, taken approximately twenty seconds later, a large cloud-like image, with a disc structure is visible above the tenuous shape. The photographer maintains he did not see the UO image. This is entirely possible as the witness was looking directly west into the sunset. There is a calm sea and the weather data supports that the wind was only in a breeze condition.

All modes of computer analysis were used to gain data in this UO sequence including: edge enhancement, color contouring, digitizing, computerizing and filtering.

The interpretations revealed the following information:

- 1) The first impression one is left with upon viewing the film is that the UO image is an emulsion defect. However, a close examination of the original negatives revealed that the image was not caused by any artifact on the emulsion.
- 2) Computer analysis revealed that the image was not any known type of cloud or weather phenomena. In fact, digital densitometry revealed a highly reflective area at the "top" of the UO image, indicative of a metallic structure.
- 3) There is no evidence of a hoax, especially in light of the fact that the pictures (sequence) appear to be taken in a rapid order, not exceeding 30 seconds from frame to frame. To super-impose in the last frame, a cloud-like structure, is beyond the realm of possibility in such a short time period.
- 4) Color contouring, used to graphically define density revealed that the disc-like portion of the UO was very bright when compared to other features in the photograph.
- 5) Digitizing for distance factoring revealed that the UO image had similar distortion characteristics of features approximately one mile from the camera/witness.
- 6) The top of the UO is being back-lighted by the setting sun and a reflection or glare from the UO's apparent curvilinear surface is obvious.
- 7) High and low pass filtering revealed a definite disc structure above the "cloud".
- 8) The UO image is slightly blurred due to "object" motion. The direction is slightly to the right and up.
- 9) The size of the UO image, based on the lens data and computer comparison of other features, reveals an approximate size of twenty feet. The aspect ratio, diameter to thickness, is 6 to 1.

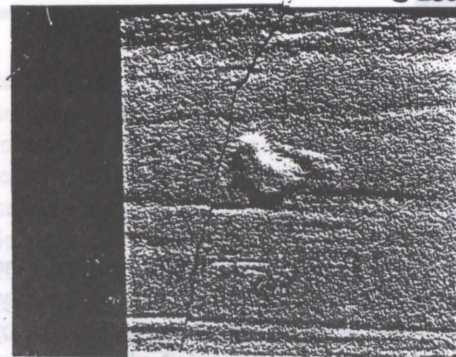
CONCLUSIONS: Based on the computerized data of the pictures, it is the consensus of the GSW technicians that the images represent a bona fide unknown flying object, of moderate dimensions, apparently surrounded by a cloud-like vapor/exhaust residue.

Fred Adrian
GSW Photographic Consultant

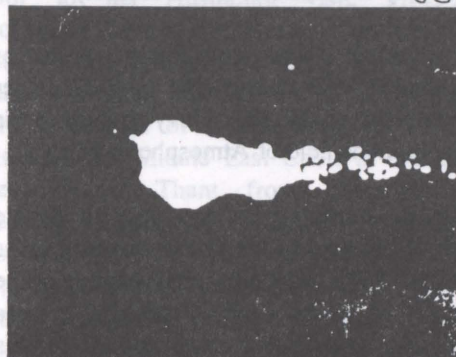
William H. Spaulding
Director



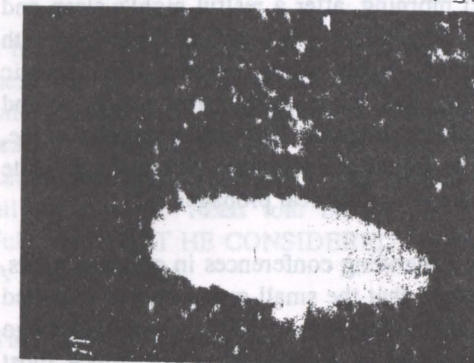
Continued



EDGE ENHANCEMENT



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Have You Seen A Press Cutting That
VUFORS May Be Interested In ?
Please Send It To Us
We Rely On You, The Membership

✉ ➡ VUFORS

— Paul Norman © 1993 —

Thursday the 1st July, I arrived early to check in at the Richmond, Virginia HYATT HOTEL to attend the MUFON 1993 Symposium and visit with other UFOlogists who came that day for the same reason.

Next morning, after a restful night's sleep and early breakfast, I was seated in the lounge with a friend, when world renown UFO sceptic Philip Klass, came in, sat down beside me and introduced himself. This was a surprise to me, that he would consider me a potential candidate to accept his sceptical propaganda!

When attending conferences in previous years, I noticed that the small group he had recruited was dwindling year by year. Several years ago there would be thirty or forty individuals, most of whom had been diverted from MUFON attendees, who would listen 'with tongue in cheek' to his emphasis on fire balls, plasma, temperature inversion and other well known hoax cases.

After the introduction, he stated that he would be driving back to his home in Washington DC the next day, Saturday, and would have room for passengers if they wanted a ride. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS CAR WAS 'BUGGED'. It was noted that he was receiving more surprises than anticipated, because he did not leave until the end of the Symposium.

After the above mentioned warning, he perhaps received his first surprise of the day, when I said I would like to know his side of the story, when he instigated charges to be brought against Professor James E. McDonald, (Senior Physicist, Department of Meteorology, University of Arizona. Now deceased.)

The episode was concerning Professor McDonald's visit to Australia in 1967, under the auspices of the U.S. Navy to further his research in the field of Atmospheric Physics.

While in Australia, he was able to devote much of his time to his private investigations into the UFO problem, interviewing some eighty witnesses and checking these previously investigated cases 'sifted' for his benefit. During his visit, he was also interviewed on several television and radio programs

The beneficial effect on Professor McDonald's visit to Australian UFO Research could not be over emphasised. Some Australian scientists and representatives of the news media were prepared to admit that the subject was much more significant than they had hitherto believed.

Professor McDonald worked long hours, from early morning to late at night, performing his duties with meteorology and his spare time

interviewing key witnesses of UFO events. Those he could not meet personally, he contacted by telephone as far west as Perth. McDonald's devotion and energy given to the research, has never been matched either by any scientist or laymen. He presented his information freely, giving credit where credit was due, unlike some researchers with selfish motives, grabbing fruits of other researchers labours without giving credit to the ones who were doing the work.

Prior to his Australian visit, Professor McDonald succeeded in arranging an interview with United Nations Secretary General, U Thant, and other Outer Space Affairs Groups, for the purpose of briefing them on UFO's. Although the Middle East Crisis at that time prevented U Thant from attending the meetings, Dr. McDonald addressed the group on the 7th June, 1967.

While McDonald was in Melbourne, a news source, emanating from a San Francisco radio station, recorded that U Thant had stated he regarded the UFO problem second only in international importance to the Vietnamese War. The Professor then sent a telegram to U Thant congratulating him on the statement, only he, McDonald, considered the UFO problem to be the number one international problem.

After McDonald left Melbourne for Queensland, Ambassador Clark, who was at that time U.S. Ambassador to Australia, telephoned Melbourne to request McDonald get in touch with him urgently. We located him while he was at the Department of Meteorology in Townsville.

When McDonald came to Sydney to board his return flight to San Francisco, instead of contacting the Ambassador in Canberra, he 'phoned the Consulate in Sydney, who of course, knew nothing about the Ambassador's message.

A few days later, I received a letter from McDonald, asking if there was any further information on the matter. After arriving in the U.S, he wrote that he had repercussions which he would not tell us about until later.

I heard no more about the incident until my next trip to the U.S, which was after the untimely death of Jim McDonald. It was then I learned of the difficulties Philip Klass had caused McDonald. McDonald was cleared of all the charges. Klass told me on the 1st July, 1993 THAT HE CONSIDERED IT WAS A WHITEWASH!

The encounter with Philip Klass, July 1993, revealed to me that what had bothered Klass was McDonald's lectures which were awakening the scientific community as well as the general public. Klass was face to face with one of his major threats, possibly because of a subconscious fear of the unknown.

What other reason could motivate his reaction? If he thinks UFO's are nonsense, why waste time criticising researchers and witnesses! I do not believe the earth is flat, and I couldn't care less who thinks the earth is flat, but I do not have the motivation to go out among people and try to persuade them that the earth is not flat, unless some sponsor if

prepared to pay for my time and effort and providing I had the time to do so.

The Philip Klass associates here in Australia are following the same pattern of behaviour in blocking UFO information from reaching the General Public.

VUFORS Committee has recently declined a number of invitations to appear on television and radio programs, where the subject is not usually treated seriously. The last one being the Vizard Show. The UFO's are serious business and we need more people who have made genuine UFO sightings, to come forward so we can learn more about the phenomenon.

Those who viewed the recent Vizard show on UFO's witnessed one sceptic who said "if UFO's are real, the astronomers would see and report them". Such statements may be accepted by a percentage of the population who knows no better.

On June 30th 1954, three plane loads of astronomers, scientists and technicians, were on a flight near Oslo, Norway, to film the solar eclipse, when two silvery discs swooped down below the clouds and were filmed by personnel aboard.

Both Judith Magee and I mention sightings by astronomers in our lectures to various groups and although Professor McDonald passed away some years ago, his lectures still remain in circulation. Excerpts on sightings by astronomers, and printed in this Bulletin, have been taken from his prepared statement submitted to the House Committee on Science

and Astronautics at the July 29, 1968 Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Rayburn Building, Washington. DC.

Not only are the reports presented, but attempts by the American sceptics to debunk the cases have utterly failed. In 1975, Astrophysicist Peter Sturrock of Stanford University, published a UFO survey of 2611 members of the American Astronautical Society. More than half of them replied: 62 gave reports of objects they could not explain; in short, unknown flying objects - UFO's.

Why are sceptics frightened of UFO reports? Why do they continue to discredit and discourage news regarding unidentified flying objects?

On the 25th February, 1990, Journalist Carolyn Beaumont, wrote a review of my chapter in Timothy Good's book entitled UFO Report 1990, concerning the Knowles Family Encounter while travelling across the Nullabor Plain in Western Australia. The Australian sceptic spokesman for South Australia - A Brunt - wrote a letter to the editor, rebuking him for printing the review on UFO's. The sceptics are competing with the flat earth society for the wooden spoon. A friend remarked to me a few days ago, regarding 'arm-chair experts' that ~from an armchair view, the world does look flat~ UFO sceptics should get out of their armchairs and check on reports from all over the world, made by people who include scientists in all fields of endeavour, and learn that things are happening out there!

WHY DON'T ASTRONOMERS EVER SEE UFOs?

This article is an excerpt from the prepared statement submitted to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics at July 29, 1968, Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C., by James E. McDonald.

I have had this question put to me by many persons, including a number of astronomers. Once I was speaking to a group from an important laboratory of astronomy when the director asked why astronomers never see them. In the room, among his staff, were two astronomers who had seen unconventional objects while doing observing but who had asked that the information they had given me about their sightings be kept confidential. I understand such strictures, but some of them make things a bit difficult. This phenomenon of professional persons seeing unidentified objects and then being extremely loath to admit it is far more common than one might guess. After hearing of an evidently very significant sighting by a prominent physical scientist who was hiking in some western mountains when he spotted a metallic-looking disc, examined it with binoculars, and saw it shoot up into the air (according to my second-hand report from a professional colleague), I tried for months to secure a direct report of it from him; he was unwilling to discuss it openly with me. NICAP has had reports from prominent executives in large technical corporations who insisted that, just because of their positions, their names not

be used publicly. Similar instances could be cited almost ad infinitum. The very types of witnesses whose testimony would carry greatest credence often prove to be the most reluctant to admit their sightings; they seem to feel they have the most to lose. Within a day of this writing, I spoke to a veteran airlines pilot about a sighting in which he was involved about a decade ago. After the official "explanation" was publicized, he decided he'd never report another one. I predict that social psychologists are going to have a field day, in a few years, studying the "pluralistic ignorance" that led so many persons to conceal so many sightings for so long.

Returning, however, to the question of why astronomers never see UFOs, a relevant quantitative consideration needs to be cited at once. According to a recent count, the membership of the American Astronomical Society is about 1800; by contrast, our country has about 350,000 law-enforcement officers. With almost 200 times as many police, sheriffs' deputies, state troopers, etc., as there are professional astronomers, it is no surprise that many more UFO reports come from the law-enforcement officers than from the astronomers. Furthermore, the notion that astronomers spend most of their time scanning the skies is quite incorrect; the average patrolman almost certainly does more random looking about than the average professional astronomer.

Despite these considerations, there are on

record many sightings from astronomers, particularly the amateurs, who far outnumber the professionals. A few examples will be considered.

1. Case 20. Las Cruces, N.M., August 20, 1949.

A good account of the sighting by Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto, is given by Menzel (Ref. 25). From my own discussions with Dr. Tombaugh, I confirmed the main outlines of this incident. At about 10:00 p.m. on 8/20/49, he, his wife, and his mother-in-law were in the yard of his Las Cruces home, admiring what Tombaugh described as a sky of rare transparency, when Tombaugh, looking almost directly towards zenith, spotted an array of pale yellow lights moving rapidly across the sky towards the southeast. He called them to the attention of the two others, who saw them just before they disappeared halfway to the horizon. The entire array subtended an angle which Tombaugh put at about one degree, and it took only a few seconds to cross 50 or 60 degrees of sky. The array comprised six "window-like" rectangles of light, formed into a symmetric pattern; they moved too fast for aircraft, too slowly for a meteor, and made no sound. Menzel quotes Tombaugh as saying, "I have never seen anything like it before or since, and I have spent a lot of time where the night sky could be seen well."

Discussion. Dr. Menzel explains this phenomenon as resulting from reflection of lights from the ground, possibly "the lighted windows of a house" reflected by an inversion

or haze layer aloft. The movement he explains as resulting from a ripple on the haze layer. Such an "explanation" is not merely difficult to understand; it is incredible. For an "inversion layer" to produce such a near-normal reflection of window lights would demand a discontinuity of refractive index so enormously large compared with anything known to occur in our atmosphere as to make it utterly out of the question. However, it has been just such casual ad hoc explanations as this by which Menzel has, in his writings, used meteorological optics to rationalize case after case with no attention to crucial quantitative details. It is a simple matter to show that even inversions of intensity many orders of magnitude larger than have ever been observed yield reflectivities (at the kind of near-normal incidence involved in Tombaugh's sighting) that are only a tiny fraction of one per cent (Ref. 36). In fact, I see no way of accounting for the Tombaugh observation in terms of known meteorological or astronomical phenomena.

2. Case 21. Ft. Sumner New Mexico, July 10, 1947.

A midday sighting by a University of New Mexico meteoricist, Dr. Lincoln La Paz, and members of his family was summarized by Life magazine years ago (Ref. 37) without identifying La Paz's name. Bloecher (Ref. 8) gives more details and notes that this is officially an Unidentified. At 4:47 p.m. MST on 7/10/47, four members of the La Paz family nearly simultaneously noted "a curious bright object almost motionless" low on the western

horizon, near a cloudbank. The object was described as ellipsoidal, whitish, and having sharply-outlined edges. It wobbled a bit as it hovered stationary just above the horizon, then moved upwards, passed behind clouds and re-emerged farther north in a time interval which La Paz estimated to be so short as to call for speeds in excess of conventional aircraft speeds. It passed in front of dark clouds and seemed self-luminous by contrast. It finally disappeared amongst the clouds. La Paz estimated it to be perhaps 20 miles away, judging from the clouds involved; and he put its length at perhaps 100-200 ft.

Discussion. This observation is attributed by Menzel (Ref. 24, p. 29) to "some sort of horizontal mirage, perhaps one of a very brilliant cloud shining like silver in the sunlight - a cloud that was itself invisible because of the darker clouds in the foreground." As nearly as I am able to understand that explanation, it seems to be based on the notion that mirage-refraction can neatly superimpose the image of some distant object (here his "brilliant cloud") upon some nearer object in the middle distance (here his "darker clouds"). That is a fallacious notion. If any optical distortions did here bring into view some distant bright cloud, it would not be possible to receive along immediately adjacent optical paths an image of the intermediate clouds. Furthermore, the extremely unstable lapse rates typical of the southwestern desert areas under afternoon conditions produce inferior mirages, not superior mirages of the looming type here invoked by Menzel. Rapid displacements, vertically and horizontally, are not typical of mirage phenomena. Hence

Menzel's explanations cannot be accepted for this sighting.

3. Case 22. Harborside, Me., July 3, 1947.

An observation by an amateur astronomer, John F. Cole, reported to official investigative offices near the beginning of the period of general public awareness of the UFO problem, involves an erratically manoeuvring cluster of about 10 objects, seen near 2:30 p.m. EDT on 7/3/47 on the eastern shore of Penobscot Bay. Hearing a roar overhead, Cole looked up to see the objects milling about like a moving swarm of bees as they travelled northwestward at a seemingly high speed, as nearly as he could judge size and distance. The objects were light-coloured, and no wings could be discerned on most, although two appeared to have some sort of darker projections somewhat resembling wings. In 10-15 seconds they passed out of sight.

Discussion. This is one of several dozen cases admitted to the Unidentified category in one of the earliest official reports on UFOs (Ref. 6). I have tried, unsuccessfully, to locate J. F. Cole. An account of the case is given by Bloecher (Ref. 8). It might be remarked that "swarming bee" UFO observations have cropped up repeatedly over the years, and from all over the world.

4. Case 23. Ogra, Latvia, July 26, 1965.

An astronomer whom I know recently toured a

number of observatories in the USSR, and brought back the word that a majority of Russian astronomers have paid little attention to Russian UFO reports (details of which are quite similar to American UFO reports, my colleague established), a frequently-cited reason being that the American astronomer, Menzel, had given adequate optical explanations of all such sightings. I must agree with Dr. Felix Zigel who, writing on the UFO problem in Soviet Life (Ref. 38), remarked that Menzel's explanation in terms of atmospheric optics "does not hold water." It would, for example, be straining meteorological optics to try to account in such terms for a sighting by three Latvian astronomers whose report Zigel cites in his article. At 9:35 p.m. on 7/26/65, while studying noctilucent clouds, R. Vitolniek and two colleagues visually observed a starlike object drifting slowly westward. Under 8-power binocular magnification, the light exhibited finite angular diameter, so a telescope was used to examine it. In the telescope, it appeared as a composite of four smaller objects. There was a central sphere around which, "at a distance of two diameters, were three spheres resembling the one in the center." The outer spheres slowly rotated around the central sphere as the array gradually moved across the sky, diminishing in size as if leaving the Earth. After about 20 minutes' observation, the astronomers noted the outer spheres moving away from the central object, and by about 10:00 p.m., the entire group had moved so far away that they were no longer visible.

Discussion. I have no first-hand information on this report, of course. The group of objects was

seen at an angular elevation of about 60 degrees, far too high to invoke any mirage-effects or other familiar refractive anomalies. Furthermore, the composite nature of the array scarcely suggests an optical distortion of the telescope, a possibility also rendered improbable from the observed angular velocity and apparent recession motion.

5. Case 24. Kislovodsk, Caucasus, August 8, 1967.

Zigel, who is affiliated with the Moscow Aviation Institute, reports in the same article (Ref. 38), a sighting at 8:40 p.m., 8/8/67, made by astronomer Anatoli Sazanov and colleagues working at the Mountain Astrophysical Station of the USSR Academy of Sciences, near Kislovodsk. Sazanov and ten other staff members watched an "asymmetric crescent, with its convex side turned in the direction of its movement" moving eastward across the northern sky at an angular elevation of about 20 degrees. Just ahead of it, and moving at the same angular speed was a point of light comparable to a star of the first magnitude. The crescent-like object was reddish-yellow, had an angular breadth of about two-thirds that of the moon, and left vapour-like trails aft of the ends of the crescent horns. As it receded, it diminished in size and thus "instantly disappeared".

Discussion. If we may accept as reliable the principal features of the sighting, how might we account for it? The "faintly luminous ribbons" trailing from the horns suggest a high-flying jet, of course; but the asymmetry

and the reddish-yellow coloration fail to fit that notion. Also, it was an object of rather large angular size, about 20 minutes of arc, so that an aircraft of wingspan, say, 150 feet would have been only about five miles away whence engine-noise would have been audible under the quiet conditions of a mountain observatory. More significant, if it had been an aircraft at a slant range of five miles, and at 20 degrees elevation, its altitude would have been only about 9000 ft above the observatory. For the latitude and date, the sun was about ten degrees below the western horizon, so direct sun-illumination on an aircraft at 9000 ft above observatory level would be out of the question. Hence the luminosity goes unexplained. Clearly, satellites and meteors can be ruled out. The astronomers' observation cannot be readily explained in any conventional terms. Zigel remarks that the object was also seen in the town of Kislovodsk, and that another reddish crescent was observed in the same area on the evening of July 17, 1967.

6. Case 25. Flagstaff, Ariz., May 20, 1950.

Near noon on 5/20/50, Dr. Seymour Hess observed an object from the grounds of the Lowell Observatory. Although Hess' principal field of interest has been meteorology, we may here consider him an astronomer-by-association, since he was at Lowell doing work on planetary atmospheres, on leave from Florida State University. Spotting an unusual, small object moving from SE to NW, he had time to send his son after binoculars, which he used in the later portions of his observation. He

said it looked somewhat disc-shaped, or perhaps somewhat like a tipped parachute. It had no wings or visible means of propulsion. Dr. Hess indicated to me that he probably had it in sight a total of about three minutes, during which it passed directly between him and a cloud, before disappearing (into a cloud Hess feels, though this point was not certain). From meteorological data bearing on the cloud-base height, Hess deduced that the cloud bases lay 12,000 ft above terrain (vs. Weather Bureau visual estimate of 6000 ft above terrain). The zenith angle was about 45 degrees, so the slant range would have been 17,000 ft or 8,000 ft, depending on which cloud height is accepted. For its 3 minutes estimated angular diameter (dime at 50 ft, Hess estimated), the diameter would then come out of the order of 10 to 15 feet. His subjective impression was that it was possibly smaller than that.

Discussion. The possibility that this might have been a balloon or some other freely drifting device comes to mind. However, Hess noted carefully that the clouds were drifting from SW to NE, i.e., at right angles to the object's motion. He estimated its speed to be in the neighbourhood of 100 to 200 m.p.h., yet no engine noises of any kind were audible. It appeared dark against the bright cloud background, but bright when it was seen against blue sky. No obvious explanation in conventional terms seems to fit this sighting.

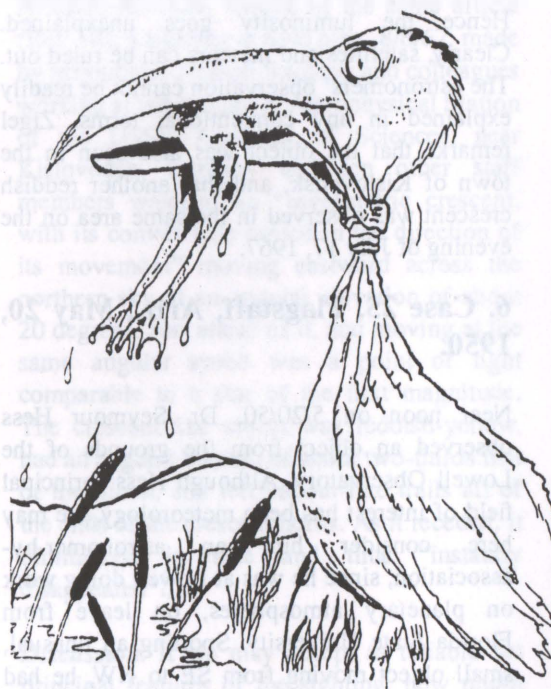
Many other sightings by both professional and amateur astronomers could be listed. Vallee (Ref. 17) discusses in detail a November 8,

1957 observation by J. L. Chapuis of Toulouse Observatory in France of what appeared through a small telescope to be a yellowish, elliptical body, with distinct outlines, leaving a short trail behind it. It was seen by other observers in three separate locations, executed manoeuvres entirely excluding meteoric origin, and was regarded as an unexplainable phenomenon by all of the witnesses. Hall (Ref. 10) lists nine examples of astronomer sightings of unidentified objects, several of which are quite striking. Ruppelt (Ref. 5) remarks that an astronomer working under contract to the official UFO investigatory program interviewed 45 American astronomers during the summer of 1952, of whom five (11 per cent) had seen what they regarded to be UFOs. Although the sample is small, that percentage is well above the population percentage who say they have seen UFOs, which suggests that perhaps astronomers may sight more UFOs than they report as such. Indeed, with the recent publication of Ref. 7, further interesting information on that 1952 poll is now at hand. The contract astronomer wrote at that time (Ref. 7, Rept. 8), "...certainly another contributing factor to their desire not to talk about these things is their overwhelming fear of publicity. One headline in the nation's papers to the effect that 'Astronomer Sees Flying Saucer' would be enough to brand the astronomer as questionable among his colleagues." Unfortunately, we scientists are by no means as open-minded and fearlessly independent as we are sometimes pictured. It is often quite difficult to persuade a scientist to let his confidential report of a UFO sighting become a fully open UFO report; and my own experience suggests

that perhaps astronomers, as a group, are just a bit more sensitive on this score than other scientists. At any event, perhaps the above-cited cases will suggest that some astronomers have seen unidentified flying objects.



NEVER EVER GIVE UP



COMPLIMENTS - Roy Russell

SUMMARY-CRITIQUE OF KLAAS' PLASMA-UFO THESIS

In the foregoing sections (not included in this article) I have pointed out a number of serious scientific errors and misconceptions that mark Klass' writings on UFOs. Although he has diligently pursued the subject of UFOs for some months, his handling of the scientific questions involved reveals so many misunderstandings, often of elementary principles, that his principal thesis, namely, that a substantial portion of the previously most puzzling UFO cases can be explained as plasmas, cannot be regarded as supported.

It is important to note that Klass does not claim that all UFOs are plasmoids (18, p. 282); he feels that meteors, balloons, optical phenomena, planets, and other misidentified phenomena account for many UFO reports. He does indicate, however, that he feels he has "identified most if not all of the previously unexplained UFOs as atmospheric electrical phenomena, using NICAP's most convincing cases (18, p. 174)." By the latter, he refers to the more than 700 cases in Hall's UFO Evidence. Such a claim is fatuous; there are in Reference 3 hundreds of cases that could not even remotely be reconciled with Klass' plasma-UFO hypothesis on any reasonable scientific grounds. Indeed, even considering the percentually small sampling of those NICAP cases that are specifically cited in Klass' book, I would say that only perhaps two or three cases could be even tentatively viewed as some atmospheric-electric plasmoid phenomenon.

His claims to have "identified" the difficult NICAP UFO cases are gratuitous and lacking in scientific basis.

Klass asserts (18, p. 286) that "it is time that these two influential organizations (meaning NICAP and APRO) encouraged their members to open their minds to the possibility that UFOs may be only freak atmospheric electrical phenomena." He adds that NICAP and APRO should "more fully inform their members about the plasma theory", evidently thinking that this will lead them to accept his hypothesis that the most interesting UFOs are "freak atmospheric electrical phenomena." As a matter of fact, members of NICAP and APRO had weighed and rejected hypotheses similar to Klass' long before he developed an interest in the UFO problem, and three communications cited in his book (18, pp. 55, 58, and 177) from NICAP members contain more reasoned, albeit brief, reactions to that hypothesis than one finds in all of Klass' writings. The provocative UFO cases are low-altitude, close-range sightings of structured, machine-like objects of entirely unconventional nature, reported by witnesses whose credibility does not appear to be in question. The nearest Klass comes to confronting such cases is to suggest hypnotic effects or Rorschach-projective effects that make the witnesses see plasmoids as if they were structured vehicular objects with domes, panels, legs, ports, markings, etc. I have,

myself, interviewed so many witnesses who have seen such objects that I can only smile weakly at the unreasonableness of Klass' intimation that he has "identified" such UFOs as plasmoids.

Furthermore, implicit in Klass' plea that NICAP, APRO, and the rest of those whom he labels as "UFOrians" should be made "fully informed" about plasma theory, is the tacit assumption that Klass, himself, is so informed. The many instances cited above wherein Klass completely misconceived pertinent aspects of the plasma physics he was attempting to talk about make such a plea quite hollow. The net effect of further study of plasma theory by any "UFOrians" will be to make still clearer that Klass has written a book filled with sometimes ludicrous errors concerning plasma theory and related physics. He accuses the "UFOrians" of having closed minds; looking at his handling of the UFO problem, I am left with the difficult choice of deciding whether he, himself, has an even more tightly closed mind or whether the glaring weakness of his book simply reflects his ignorance of elementary principles of physics and electrical engineering. Rather than make that choice, I split my opinion about down the middle on those two alternatives.

The principal points I would emphasise by way of critique of Klass' plasma-UFO theory are the following:

1) He fails to put numbers into his hypotheses where numbers are readily inserted. The result is that he presents what may appear to be plausible arguments because they contain some

qualitatively plausible elements. In this regard, Klass resembles Menzel. Quantitative evaluations reveal serious difficulties, sometimes outright absurdity, in instance after instance in the writings of these two principal proponents of the notion that UFOs are only misidentified natural phenomena.

2) Plasmas are notoriously unstable and evanescent, except when suitably contained and provided with sustaining energy sources. Klass appears to be almost unaware of these prime characteristics of plasmas for he casually adduces plasma-explanations in UFO incidents for which he offers no suggestions as to what provides the continuing energy sources of his plasmas, often over times of the order of not only tens of seconds, but often tens of minutes.

3) In the one or two instances where Klass does actually propose something resembling an energy source (powerline corona, TV antennas, aircraft charge-leakage), it has been shown above that there are fatal difficulties with his position.

4) Through a quite astonishing series of misunderstandings, Klass builds up a thesis to the effect that air pollutants are favourable to plasma-formation, and from this, makes repeated deductions (such as greater incidence of high-altitude UFOs because of more jets polluting the airways) of exorbitant nature. That Klass would go to press with such error-riddled ideas is surprising.

5) Through failure to understand elementary

principles of atmospheric electricity (the field in which he claims to be making discoveries), he builds an error-chain extending from diurnal variation of atmospheric potential gradient to diurnal variation of UFOs, and deduces there from an "explanation" of excess of rural over urban sightings. For someone claiming to have uncovered an intriguing new phenomenon of atmospheric electricity, Klass' ignorance of fundamentals of that subject seems startling.



UFO sightings investigated

A SPATE of unexplained lights in the sky over the outer eastern suburbs in the past three weeks has the Victorian UFO Research Society investigating the possibility of UFO visits.

UFO research society spokesperson Paul Norman said the society received 80 reports of UFO sightings in the last three weeks from the Boronia, Ferntree Gully and

Dandenongs area compared to the usual two to three reports a week.

Mr Norman said sighting report forms were sent out to people who claimed to have seen UFOs, with the society planning to screen each report to judge the veracity of each claim.

However, Mr Norman also cautioned the public to be aware of hoaxers in the area who were filling balloons with gas and lights and releasing them into the atmosphere to simulate UFOs.

6) His claim to have accounted for the high frequency with which pilots observe UFOs following aircraft falls apart completely on subjecting the idea to quantitative assessment, as shown above. His related intimations that charged automobiles and charged pedestrians also attract plasma-UFOs are absurd. It is to be stressed that the quantitative evaluation of that hypothesis involves only elementary physics and, say, electrical engineering, yet no such evaluation was made by Klass. And, to add an extremely important criticism, he overlooks dozens of well-reported cases wherein UFO manoeuvres would defy explanation in terms of his Coulomb-attraction hypothesis.

"We have recovered two such balloons in the Boronia area in the past three weeks and so we are remaining cautious about the possible significance of this latest spate of sightings in the one area," Mr Norman said.

He said genuine UFO sightings often stimulated people to produce hoax UFO devices.

Mr Norman said about 10 per cent of all UFO sightings remained unexplained after full investigation and some reports received from the local area could not, as yet, be explained.



MICHIGAN MUFON News

Mutual UFO Network, Inc.
Dedicated to the Scientific Study of
Unidentified Flying Objects



Shirley Coyne, Editor
73 Borman, Flushing, MI 484
(313) 659-3340

SIGHTINGS

July 19, 1993, a woman and her friend were driving near I-69 when they saw something that was 10 times larger than a plane. It was circled with lights and there were three lights that formed a triangle. The thing just sort of bounced in the sky. "There was no sound like it would if it were a plane 'hovering' over the road. This is the only information that we have at this time. The sighting occurred near Davison.

July 18, 1993, near Barton City, three children ran into the house to tell their mother to come and see the falling stars. The mother told the children to make a wish. The girl said, "Mom you had better come out and see this, something is wrong. I can hear wind but I can't feel it." The woman went outdoor to take a look. She did not expect to see four long beams of light that kept moving in half circles over the woods behind her home. She went into the house and brought the video camera outdoors to get some footage. She tried to record it but the camera kept telling her that there was too much light. She let it run anyway but nothing would show. She called the Sheriff's office and the dispatcher asked her if she was drinking. She told the dispatcher that she did not drink. The dispatcher gave her my phone number but she misplaced it. The woman called several neighbors and asked them to look at the lights and they said that it was flood lights. I will be doing this investigation next week.

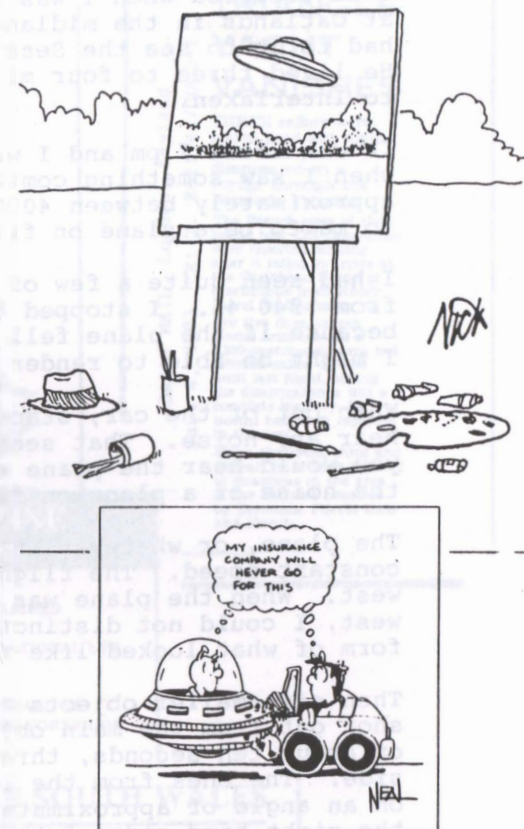
At 4:00 a.m. a woman was driving her car, on a gravel road, while delivering the morning paper. She looked in the rearview mirror and saw a "super bright, white light" approaching the rear of her car. She said that she

had never seen anything like it and admitted that she was frightened by it. She knew that it was not another car nor was it a truck. The light went out but she knew it was still behind her. She continued to drive and made a left turn at the next road. She looked out the passenger side window to see if there was any traffic coming from the right. Just as she looked, the object passed her on the right. The object was flying low enough that she could see the bottom of it. There was a circle of flashing lights that were a funny yellowish color. She thought, "On my God, it's gonna land on the road in front of me." It didn't land, it continued up the road, flying at the same altitude. The woman completed her turn and did not see it again. She said that she had always been a doubting Thomas but now, "seeing is believing," and she thinks that it was a UFO. The case is under investigation.

On July 29, 1993, at 1:25 p.m., a MUFON member was on her way to work. She turned from her street onto the main road and headed west. She noticed three objects flying in a triangular formation, and they appeared to be above the high-school. Each object was about as long and wide as a Cessna plane, minus the wings. She pulled her car into the parking lot at the high-school so that she could get a better look. A storm was moving into the area so the clouds were very dark, and they were low. The objects were flying below the clouds. They were flying west, there was some type of motion, "not a turn," and they were flying south. One object disappeared, two flew south, then there was "just one and then none." She said this was unlike anything she had ever seen. This sighting occurred near Davison and is under investigation. Things are going on in that area.

Up-date on the Goodrich case. The witness called me one day and said

that she woke up about 2:00 a.m. and was started to see her bedroom and the backyard lit like day. The light was coming from above, like there was something over the house. She reached over and shook her husband but he would not respond. Then it was morning. I asked how she felt when she saw the room and yard lit that way. She told me that her first thought was, "My God, they are here to investigate us, again." I asked why she felt this and she said that she did not understand why she thought that. I asked what she thought when she could not get any response from her husband. She said that her husband was a sound sleeper but she was pounding on him and he would not wake up. I am keeping this case open because there are some strange things going on. Goodrich is a few miles from Davison. This witness lives only three miles from the MUFON member.



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Tasmanian Sighting Report

Report by Reverend Mr Bill Drooger of a Sighting in Tasmania, August-September, 1965.

This occurred when I was Minister of the Presbyterian Church at Oatlands in the midlands of Tasmania. One evening I had to go to see the Session Clerk on church business. He lived three to four miles west of Oatlands on the road to Interlaken.

It was about 7 pm and I was two miles west of Oatlands when I saw something coming. It would have been approximately between 4000 and 5000 feet high and appeared to me to be a plane on fire.

I had seen quite a few of those in Holland during the war, from 1940-45. I stopped the car on the side of the road because if the plane fell down, as I thought it would do, I might be able to render some help.

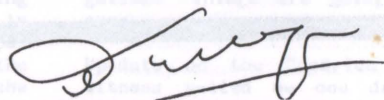
When out of the car, standing on the roadside, I didn't hear any noise. That seemed rather strange because normally you would hear the plane either revving up the engines or the noise of a plane on fire falling through the air.

The plane, or whatever it was, kept at a constant height and constant speed. The flight path was from south east to north west. When the plane was slightly left of me to the north west, I could not distinctly see any wings, but I saw the form of what looked like the body of a plane.

Then six smaller objects that looked like lighted arrow-heads shot out from the main object. Coming out at the same interval of about ten seconds, three of the objects came out from each side. The ones from the left hand side of the object continued on an angle of approximately 45° to the WNW while those from the right hand side of the object shot out at the same 45° angle to the NNE.

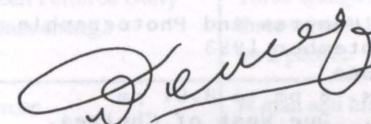
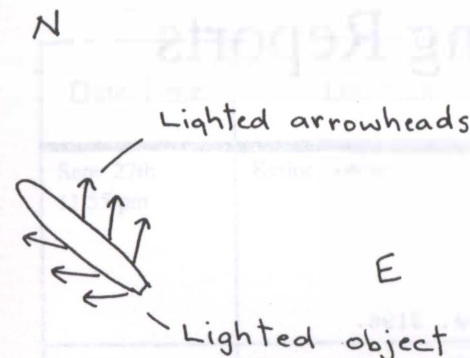
I did not see any alteration in the height or speed of all those six lighted arrow-heads or the lighted up body of the plane, which I realised at that time was not on fire but just lit up. It was an even glow of light, fairly bright. No lighted up windows could be seen as you would normally see on a plane.

When I came to the Session Clerk's place and told him, he said to go to the Police, which I did the next morning as it was rather late when I arrived home. A couple of days later I was informed by the Police that at the time of the sighting there was no plane known to be in the area. I did not check up any further for fear of being ridiculed.



TASMANIAN REPORT

Continued



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STRANGE LIGHTS OVER SOUTH WALES

Investigator Alun Meredith

At 11.50pm on Monday, 27th July 1992, at the request of his wife Mr. W Price went out into the garden to bring in the washing. He commented that it was a beautiful clear night with no clouds in the sky and thousands of stars visible.

As he looked into the air his attention was taken by four orange coloured lights which were moving in a delta shape across the sky. At first he thought that the lights were on a passing aircraft, but suddenly a fifth light approached from the rear at very fast speed to join the other four. When the fifth light had joined the formation, the others started to move in and out from each other.

During this time there was no sound from the lights and Mr. Price, who had now been joined by his wife, watched until they disappeared into the distance.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE YACHT VANISHES

THREE sailors were feared dead last night after their yacht disappeared on a voyage through the Bermuda Triangle.

The French crew of the brand new 62ft catamaran were reported missing after it failed to arrive at the Caribbean island of Martinique from Rhode Island on December 23.

For five days, search planes criss-crossed a 7,200-square-mile area but officials called off the hunt last night, saying the disappearance was a complete mystery. No storms had been reported in the area.

Since the 1940s, ships and aircraft have been reputed to disappear in the area of the Atlantic bounded by Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida.

DAILY MAIL, London, England
CR: T. Ruffles/COUD-I
Jan. 4, 1993

Victorian Sighting Reports

UFO SIGHTING REPORT

1. NAME. George Simpson
2. ADDRESS. 24 Donald Grove Chelsea. Vic. 3196.
3. TELEPHONE. 776 0610
4. AGE. 35.
5. OCCUPATION. Technician. (Cameras and Photographic Electronics)
6. DATE OF SIGHTING. 9th September 1993
7. PLACE OF SIGHTING. Chelsea
8. TIME OF SIGHTING. Approx. 8 pm to 8.01 pm
9. POSITION WHEN FIRST SEEN. Due West of Chelsea.
10. POSITION WHEN LAST SEEN. As above but further South.
11. INITIAL ELEVATION. About 20 degrees
12. FEATURES OF OBJECT. Large Amber coloured light in motion.
13. SPEED. Very rapid, hard to estimate, many times faster than a conventional Aircraft, but slower than a meteor.
14. FLIGHT PATH OBSERVED. Straight line from North to South.
15. DURATION OF SIGHTING. One to two seconds only.
16. SIZE OF OBJECT (Compared to a coin etc.held at arms length) A little less than a pea held at arms length.
17. WEATHER CONDITIONS. Very clear, no cloud, no wind.
18. OBJECT WAS OBSERVED THROUGH. (eg. a window, binoculars etc.)
Naked eye.
19. SKETCH THE OBJECT. - rapid horizontal travel.
20. OTHER WITNESSES. None as far as I'm aware.
21. REACTION TO THE SIGHTING. Puzzlement due mainly to its rapid disappearance.
22. OTHER REMARKS. The movement caught my attention, the object went behind a tree and at that speed it should have rapidly re-appeared from behind the tree but it didn't!
Also, no sound was heard.
23. WERE THERE ANY CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT SEEN BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER THE U.F.O. SIGHTING? None seen till hours later.
24. WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED YOUR ATTENTION TO THE OBJECT? Rapid movement.
25. TERRAIN IN THE AREA. Melbourne, South Suburban, Seaside.
26. LIST ANY AIRPORT, MILITARY BASES, GOVT.RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS ETC. IN THE AREA. None relevant.
27. CONFIDENTIALITY OF WITNESS REQUESTED OR NOT REQUESTED.
Not required. Not requested.
28. DATE OF THIS REPORT. 9th September 1993.

Victorian Sighting Reports

Date/Time	Location	Details
Sept. 27th 11.55 pm	Keilor Downs	An object larger then the moon moved slowly over-head while witness watched through bedroom window. There was no sound and 7 red flashing lights on the underside of the object. It hovered about 35 minutes before moving on. The woman was startled and afraid. It moved out of sight over nearby roof tops.
October 1st 8.30 pm	Between Ferntree Gully and Dandenong.	Three orange lights - very bright - no sound. Larger than three moons, crossed the sky from S to NE. Witnessed by 2 people.
Oct. 12th 9.40 pm	Montrose	A man and his wife observed an orange light about the size of a 20c piece held at arms length, fly from S to NW. No sound. At first it was travelled slowly then sped away very fast to the NW - then shot straight up. One of these observers is an amateur astronomer.
Oct. 12th 10.50 - 11.20pm	Montrose	Three very bright amber lights, about size of a bright star, flying in straight line formation. They changed position twice, hovered for about 30 minutes, then sped away to NW.
Oct. 12th 9 pm	Montrose	Four witnesses reported 3 orange lights in formation of triangle. They commenced flashing then disappeared to the SW.
Oct. 15th 8-8.15 pm	Doveton	A man, his wife and 11 year old son noted 3 arrow-head shaped lights moving through sky. No sound. They moved in a single line formation and appeared to be the same colour as a star although their arrow heads were larger than a star. Lights moved fast.
Oct. 19th 5.30 - 5.35 pm	Anglesea	Cigar shaped object with no apparent wings and no sound. About size of Boeing 737, flying westerly direction at about 100 mph.
Oct. 21st 7.30 pm	Dandenong	Four lights in a square formation. After hovering a few minutes, they suddenly sped away in four different directions.
Oct. 24th 7.50 pm	Carrum	Huge, bright orange object, looked like aircraft on fire going about 300 knots and zigzagging.

Sighting Reports

continued

Date/Time	Location	Details
Sept. 22nd 7.30 pm	Dandenong	Two 20 year old witnesses noted something unusual shooting upwards. Thought to be a distress flare from boat in bay. Light shot upwards, ceased to climb and turned towards witnesses - now 6 witnesses. Object about the size of a car - moved silently over witnesses. circular object was orange and was described as similar to star with four points. Passed over house and moved quickly and silently to reach dark grey clouds where it remained stationary briefly, then disappeared, to return a few minutes later going in the direction of Endeavour Hills where it made a loop pattern by turning back towards the witnesses.
Sept. 23rd 8-8.15 pm	Dandenong	Orange-coloured object came from south and disappeared into clouds to reappear again from the south. After a short time it flew towards the moon. There were 5 witnesses.
Sept. 23rd. approx. 7.30 pm	Boronia	A large orange light and a small white light moving from SW to NE. Large light moved slowly while the white light moved at a fast speed. Both lights stopped for a short time. There was no sound. Nine witnesses at various intervals between Boronia and Ferntree Gully.
Sept. 25th 8.30 pm	Doveton	Lady motorist observed glowing orange light above Dandenong South. Stationary when first seen. When she reached her destination, the object began to move in a NE direction. It was not a 'plane or helicopter. Friend also saw object fly off towards NE.
Sept. 25th 8.30 pm	Boronia	Bright pulsating orange light seen flying from NE to N. Size of 5c coin held at arms length. Disappeared to N at fast speed.
Sept. 26th 12-12.25am	Ferntree Gully	Bright gold coloured silent object, large as 10c coin held at arms length, moving slowly. Witness thought it to be an aircraft, but when it moved closer observed there were no running lights or sound. As the object went overhead, dogs started barking.

SIGHTINGS continued

Date/Time	Location	Details
Oct. 31st. 11 am	Springvale	Two witnesses driving on the Highway enroute to Rosebud observed seven (7) objects flying towards them. Objects were white or silver metallic in appearance and all alike in size and shape. They flew in an 'untidy' formation and were continually changing position with one another. They flew from S., crossed the highway from their right to their left (SW to NE) then flew in the direction witnesses were travelling, which was the original direction the objects came from. at this stage, the objects were travelling about 10 kmh faster than the car. They began to move faster, climbed very high then with a sudden burst of speed, sped away. The entire event took about five (5) minutes.

UFO POTPOURRI

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Credit: John F. Schuessler
P.O. Box 58485.
HOUSTON, TEXAS.
77258-8485. USA

The Detroit Free Press and the Kansas City Star both reported on the February 8, (or 9th, the papers do not agree) 1993 close encounter reported by Anna Sitarova near Jihlava. It was 8 pm when she and a friend were driving about a mile outside of the village of Zhor and the car began to sputter. It was then they saw a "dazzling light" about 100 yards from the right side of the car. She said "my legs and arms began to feel stiff. I couldn't stop the car. I felt like I was being compelled to follow." Next, the object shot to a spot on the highway about 100 yards in front of them. They described it as 5 feet long and 3 feet wide, floating about 12 feet above the pavement, emitting red light from its sides and bottom. They turned the car around and sought help. The inferred EM effects on the car and the driver are interesting, especially when it was noted that the object was 100 yards distant.

Jorge Martin And The Puerto Rican UFO Experience

by Richard D. Seifried, Oklahoma State Director of Investigations

DID A UFO CAPTURE TWO NAVY TOMCATS?

On December 28, 1988 many in the area of southwestern Puerto Rico on either side of the Sierra Bermeja witnessed an apparent contact between a large, triangular UFO and two military jet airplanes, resulting in the disappearance of the airplanes.

To date 113 witnesses have come forward to talk about what they saw that evening and, according to investigator Jorge Martin, their stories are remarkably consistent.

One of the principal, and most vocal, witnesses to the December 28 event is Wilson Sosa of the town of Betances. Sosa and his family live on the second floor of

a blue frame house overlooking the wetlands of the Laguna Cartagena. From the balcony off the kitchen one can see the Sierra Bermeja range and the tall antenna of Musiradio, a popular music radio station.

At 6:30 in the evening of that day the Sosas and their neighbors were disturbed by the sound of military jets. The sound was a familiar one in the area, but Sosa was alert to it because a week earlier he had seen a jet, either an F-14 or an F-15, chase a small UFO over the Sierra Bermeja. This time he went outside to look and saw some jets flying to the west.

At 7:45 p.m. the sound of jets was heard again.

"My wife went out to see them," Sosa said, "and in a few minutes came back calling for me to come look. I went out and there was a huge UFO blinking with many colored lights, coming over the Sierra Bermeja. I ran to get my binoculars—I always keep them handy, since we see so many strange lights here—and I could clearly see that it was a big triangle with a little curve at the rear side.

"It came forward and turned, then came lower. Then we saw two jet fighters behind it. The UFO turned again, and one of the jets flew in front of it. The UFO turned back and slowed down. The jets flew around it, like they were trying to make it go in a certain direction. Then the UFO slowed down and almost stopped, and just stayed there. It was bigger than the baseball park here, and it just hung there.

"There was a jet at the left rear of the craft, and one at the right. They looked like mosquitoes compared to the UFO, it was so big.

"Then the people all hollered, because it looked like the jet at the rear was going to collide with the craft and we didn't know what would happen—it's a UFO, and what if it crashes? Then the plane disappeared, I don't know if it went into the UFO or what happened, but its lights were just gone. And then the UFO turned toward the west and the second jet disappeared, too. Its lights were gone and the engine sound was gone."

After the jets had disappeared, the UFO hovered for a while then dipped close to the ground and flew around the Musira-

dio antenna. Sosa had noted that the lights on one side of the triangle were red; the ones on the other side were yellow. As it sat low in the sky it appeared to separate into two pieces from the apex to base of the triangle. The two halves, still joined at the apex, swung apart until they were facing each other then, with a shower of sparks, they broke apart. The two smaller triangles, one with yellow lights and one with red, flew away at high speed, one to the southeast and the other toward the northeast.

Sosa was visited shortly thereafter by two men who claimed to be from the Air Force. He said they were in uniform, and displayed identification badges, but he remarked that they wore no hats.

The men told him they were aware of what he had seen. They acknowledged that he had seen a real event, but refused to tell him what it was. They left with a warning not to speak about what he had seen.

Sosa, who if nothing else is cautious, taped the visit of the two men from the moment they stepped out of the car in front of his house. He would not share the tape with The Ufologist, but said he feels it is "his security" in case someone disputes what he has said.

Sosa immediately reported the sighting to Jorge Martin.

While investigating this event, Martin learned that a similar event was reported to have occurred on November 16, 1988 in San German, about 8 miles from Betances.

"There, at 9:00 p.m., witnesses saw a huge, silent yellow light approach from the south, fly to a microwave tower owned by the Telephone Company of Puerto Rico, and hover," Martin says.

"Then, according to witnesses, two jet fighters arrived from the south and began to fly around the light. As in the Betances case, one jet appeared to vanish, its lights and engine noise gone. Then the second jet flew away rapidly to the west. The UFO was then seen to throw out two balls of red light which shot off in the same direction as the jet. Next, the UFO itself flew away rapidly to the north.

"I ask myself, how can these things be? In front of so many people?"

According to Martin, he has verified



that the jets were indeed F-14s, but does not yet know where they came from, or whether they were U.S. Navy or Puerto Rico National Guard planes, though he feels evidence suggests they came from a Navy carrier stationed 20 to 25 miles off the coast. He suspects they might have been from the carrier that came to the aid of the Iowa in April 1989, north of Puerto Rico.

The ufologist has learned that carrier is the Coral Sea. We have been unable to find any reports of missing planes or pilots connected with the Coral Sea during the relevant time frame.

The planes need not be carrier based, and Roosevelt Roads Naval Station is the largest Navy base in the world, covering 8,000 acres on the island and another 22,000 on Vieques Island off the east coast of Puerto Rico.

Martin discovered that there were independent verifications of the incidents.

Martin was informed by contacts in the Navy that there were radar tapes confirming the incidents.

At the time, the FAA denied any knowledge of the occurrences, but Martin was able to find out that there were special "air exercises" in the area during the relevant times.

The occurrences of November 16 and December 28, 1988 are exceptional in UFO annals. More than a hundred persons witnessed what appeared to be confrontation between a UFO and US jets, with the jets disappearing. Taken at face value, the incident should leave records on several fronts: there should be six families whose sons were lost in action; there should be three jets unaccounted for; there should be newspaper reports, obituaries. The same watchdogs who pointed out the rash of Navy disasters surrounding the Iowa incident should have spotted the horrific, unexplainable loss of three fighters and their crews in a 43-day period.

Yet the record apparently isn't there.

Stripping the witness reports to the bare bones we find

1. Both events happened on a Wednesday.
2. On November 16 the moon was setting when the incident occurred. On Dec. 28, the moon had not risen. So both events took place when there was no illumination from the moon.
3. In both cases the UFO arrived from the south, over Sierra Bermeja.
4. In both cases the airplanes arrived

from the same direction as the UFO, as if pursuing it.

5. In both cases the UFO hovered near a large vertical structure, in the November 16, case this was the microwave tower (998 feet above ground level by the VFR chart), and in the December 28 case it was the Musiradio tower, (407 feet above ground level by the VFR chart.)

6. In both cases the object flew away to the north (at least half of it in the December case).

So, the mystery object in both cases advanced from the south, stayed on a course that took it to a tall transmitting structure, then continued on in all or in part in the direction it was originally

traveling.

Airplanes came from the same direction as the object and either were made to vanish or departed toward the area of Laguna Cartagena, the aerostat facility, and, perhaps more interesting, a private airstrip on the tip of the island.

And just to call attention to what may be a meaningless coincidence, before the spectacular December 28 incident a UFO was chased by jets over the same area. Then, on the night of the incident, just before the main event, a flyover by jets chased citizens out of their houses to see what was happening.

Season's Greetings

The committee of VUFORS wishes the members and readers a very Happy, Safe and Healthy Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year!



Inquiries should be addressed to:
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1916 Inglewood Dr., Norman, Oklahoma 73071
(405) 329-1005
Annual Subscription \$12

August 1993 / Oklahoma MUFONews

How to Maximise your chances of Successfully
Capturing a UFO on film or Video.

The only way to be sure you have a chance to get that once in a lifetime photograph is to always have your camera ready, with film loaded, and close at hand. It's no use if you are out in the garden when you see something and you have to go searching your house for the camera! The chances are that you won't want to look away from the object. They can move fast too, so you have to be quick.

The best way to be quick is to have a suitable camera. You will also have to use a suitable film in the case of a still camera, and a good battery in the camera whether it's a still or a Video camera.

Still Photography.

I recommend something like a Canon T50. The reason for this is that it is an extremely fast camera to operate and it's simple to use. You just load the Film, set the camera ASA-ISO dial to the film type you loaded, switch the body on to "PROGRAM" and the lens aperture on to "A" (auto) and then focus and shoot. A zoom lens of about 200mm focal length is a good choice of lens. Film speed should be more than the standard 100 ASA-ISO. You are better off with today's 200 and 400 films which are both excellent. I personally prefer Fuji film, but the brand is not that important. If a Canon T50 is not available any S.L.R. (Single Lens Reflex) camera should do, but the more automatic the exposure the better.

Auto focus cameras may be ok however there are technical reasons why manually focussed cameras are more likely to give you good results when attempting to get that elusive "chance of a lifetime" U.F.O. picture. The same applies here for Auto Focus Video cameras. U.F.O.s have been known to give off all types of radiation from the electro-magnetic spectrum. This could upset the Auto focus system in your camera. Even a sunset gives off enough Infra-red to confuse an Auto Focus camera. If you have a camera with Auto Focus, if it's an S.L.R. switch off the Auto Focus switch, if it's a compact, consult the owners manual on how to use "PRE-FOCUS" or Infinity Override.

If you have a manual SLR with Auto Exposure, use the auto exposure and a large aperture so as to be sure the camera selects a medium to fast shutter speed. Go for a speed of at least 1/125th sec. The choice of 200 or 400 ASA/ISO film will assist in getting clear photos of high speed objects. Another reason for using "FAST" film is that when you use Telephoto lenses any camera movement is exaggerated. Fast shutter speeds reduce the effects of camera movement, and fast film lets you use faster shutter speeds. So, go for it! Get those clear photos of U.F.O.s. Have that camera loaded and at the ready. One other note, check that your camera battery contacts are in good condition, clean and tight.

Video Cameras.

Almost all modern Video cameras are suitable for filming U.F.O.s. The 8 mm and Hi 8 Cameras are the most conveniently sized and handled units. Their low light level (LUX) capability is especially useful in low light conditions, and their zoom lenses are excellent for getting a closer view. As long as you have a well charged battery you should be able to film something as soon as you notice it. For a really professional result with a Video camera, you must use either a tripod or a monopod.

Regardless of which type of camera you use there's nothing better than being in the right place at the right time. No matter how well prepared you are you

Researchers considering anti-gravity as possible counter to natural force

By DONALD SMITH
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — When the pendulum swings, the University of Maryland's physics building shakes.

But not so much that students would notice as they walk by the gray basement room where Ho Jung Paik is conducting his experiment measuring the gravitational effects of the huge lead ball.

"It's an extremely small motion," says Paik. "You wouldn't feel it walking down the hall. But it affects our instruments."

Paik, a Korean-born physicist, is among a worldwide community of scientists who have devised a Wizard of Oz inventory of exotic devices in their attempts to solve what many consider the ultimate mystery of the physical universe: gravity.

Gravity is the weakest and least understood of the four known natural forces.

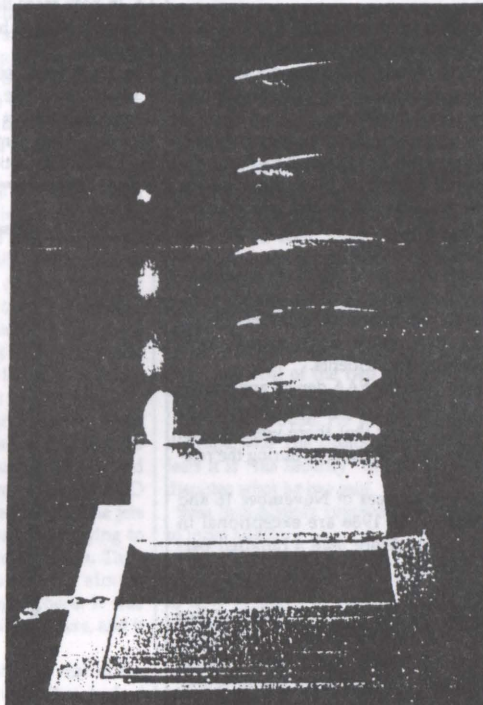
People have discovered how to manipulate the other three forces: electromagnetism, which provides energy for light, heat and kitchen appliances; the strong nuclear force, which binds together atomic nuclei, and the weak force, which causes radioactive decay.

Puzzling results from an experiment in an Australian mine have accelerated the decades-long, worldwide hunt for a fifth natural force — a force that seems to counteract gravity.

Geophysicist Frank Stacey and colleagues at the University of Queensland detected an anti-gravity force using a sensitive meter to measure gravity at different depths in the mine. The force had the strength of only 1 percent of gravity and a range of a few hundred meters. Similar tests in other boreholes and mines have substantiated these results.

The search for gravitational waves — predicted by Einstein's general theory of relativity — has preoccupied scientists increasingly in recent decades. In visualizing the universe as a continuum of space and time, Einstein believed that when massive events occur, such as giant stars exploding and collapsing into black holes, they set off gravitational ripples in the continuum.

Detecting such ripples, along with other gravitational phenomena, requires unimaginably accurate



National Geographic/AP

Some researchers think a fifth force, sometimes called hypercharge, counters the effect of gravity.

measuring devices. LIGO, the National Science Foundation's \$230-million Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, is designed to measure movements as small as one 100-millionth of the diameter of a hydrogen atom.

The first two LIGO observatories are now under construction in Washington state and Louisiana. Others are planned, including one sponsored by a consortium of European nations.

An understanding of how gravity relates to the other, better-understood forces would be the ultimate payoff for most scientists.

★ The Houston Post/Tuesday, May 18, 1993/ A-9

Continued

Letters To The Editor

Continued

never know when you're going to want to photograph something. For instance, in June ('93) a U.F.O. flew on a path which was almost directly over my house according to the report, but I wasn't home at the time!.

If you are a V.U.F.O.R.S. member and you have any queries regarding your camera or its operation I will be happy to help you if I can.
Go for it!

George Simpson. CAMERA TECHNICIAN (AH 776-0610).

16/6/93

Dear Judith,

I thought that you would be interested in a UFO sighting that I had with two acquaintances whilst I was in Zimbabwe on the evening of 8/6/93.

I was at a bush camp near Lion's Den in Zimbabwe on the 8/6/93, the time was around 21.00, my friends Tim, William and me were engaged in conversation as we gazed up at the stars. Our conversation was revolving around the game on the ranch. We were also watching the occasional passing satellite. Tim and I noticed one at the same time and attracted William's attention towards it. Just as this happened Tim and I noticed another "flashing" satellite moving in the opposite direction. Both objects seemed to be converging at approximately the same speed. The objects initial track was hard to establish because it was flashing but its general direction could be determined because the flash was long enough to gauge a fair idea of its path.

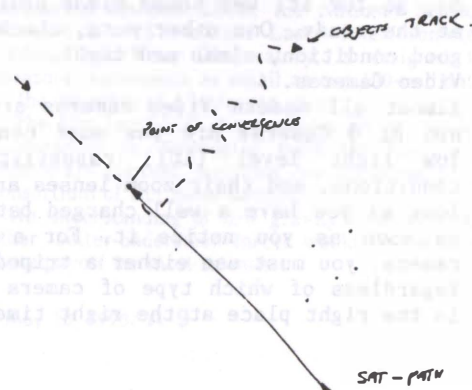
Initially its path converged with the satellite, then went past it turned left and then started a zig-zag path with a base track roughly 90 degrees away from its original track. Eventually it disappeared a few minutes later as it moved behind the trees.

Unfortunately there is little remarkable about the scene, however, I do feel that it warrants to be included on your records. Included is a rough sketch of the event. Being in the bush left me disorientated in regards to the directions of travel however I do recall that the moon was to our left and the Southern Cross was low and to our right. The path of the three satellites was roughly from our right to left.

Yours sincerely

Rob Kennedy

Rob Kennedy



SOCIETY NEWS

Once in a lifetime opportunity!

VUFORS is selling a library of UFO books.

Many no longer in print.

Paper backs, hard backs, all at bargain prices.

Some published over four decades ago.

They will be on display in the supper room after the 6th of December meeting.

...LAST CHANCE...

Flight Into The Ages by the Senior Public Relations Officer of the R.A.A.F. Ken Llewelyn.

UFO activity witnessed by senior officers over the Woomera rocket range, Nullarbor and other areas of Australia.

The book presents experiences of airmen who have questioned traditional concepts and beliefs, not only with regards to UFOs but paranormal experiences aswell.

Write to : Victorian UFO Research Society
P.O. Box 43
Moorabbin Victoria 3189
\$14.95 plus \$3.00 postage and handling



MEMBER

International Committee for U.F.O. Research

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia

DISCUSSION NIGHT

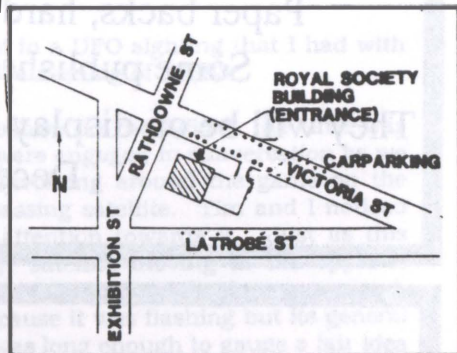
For Your Diary

MARCH	1st 1993	DISCUSSION
JUNE	7th 1993	"
SEPTEMBER	6th 1993	"
DECEMBER	6th 1993	"

TIME 8.00 p.m.

WHERE "The Royal Society of Victoria"
Victoria Street, Melbourne (SEE MAP)

COST FULL MEMBERSHIP NO CHARGE
ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$2.00
NON-MEMBER \$5.00



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

V.U.F.O.R.S.

FULL MEMBERSHIP:	\$20	- Magazine - Free Meeting Entry - Free Supper
ASSOCIATE MEMBER:	\$15	- Magazine Only
OVERSEAS:	\$US20	- Magazine Only
NON MEMBER:	\$5	- Meeting Entry Only

SOCIETY HISTORY

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered – this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

In 1978, following the resignation of Mr. Peter Norris the current executive, Mrs. Judith Magee, Messrs. Paul Norman and Clive Yates, was placed in control, ensuring the continuing prosperity of V.U.F.O.R.S. The Society has held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in general meetings and discussion nights and maintained the largest U.F.O. library in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the loss of books, probably due to the high cost of postage has forced V.U.F.O.R.S. to discontinue this service to members.

Membership of this Society – which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere – is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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